

VINCENNES -  
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# Indiana Memorials

## Free Press Memorial In Vincennes

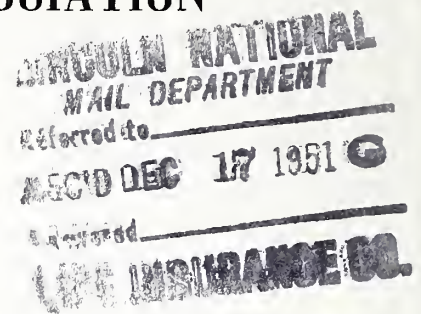
Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

VINCENNES, INDIANA



Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

Fellow Indianans:

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HON. CURTIS G. SHAKE  
Former Chief Justice, Supreme  
Court of Indiana; Former  
Executive Presiding Judge, U. S.  
Military Tribunals, Nurnberg,  
Germany

DR. ISAAC K. BECKES  
President, Vincennes University.

ROSS H. GARRIGUS  
Editor, Vincennes Sun-  
Commercial

HOWARD R. BURNETT  
President, Old Post Association  
For The Preservation And  
Restoration of Historic Vincennes

MRS. FLORENCE G. WATTS  
Past Regent, Francis Vigo  
Chapter, Daughters Of The  
American Revolution

This Association addresses you confident that you, too,  
believe in its aims and that you will want to join us in  
attaining its objectives. Read thoughtfully, then, please.

In planning the restoration of the Elihu Stout Print Shop in  
Vincennes, a little known incident in the life of Abraham  
Lincoln came to light: On March 6th, 1830 young Lincoln first  
saw a printing press in the Stout Shop, then the publication  
office of the "Western Sun & General Advertiser", the first  
newspaper published in the Indiana Territory. Lincoln was  
quick to evaluate the vast potential of the printed word.  
Fascinated, he assisted Stout for several days. Years later  
Lincoln referred to the incident and jokingly said "I almost  
became a printer. I guess I would have made a better printer  
than I have a lawyer."

Here in Vincennes the two Great Emancipators met. Each by  
different methods has wrought changes in the thinking of  
people. Lincoln has passed on in glorious and honored memory,  
but a free press remains as the great bulwark against the  
forces of corruption. This cherished freedom must ever be  
preserved. The Elihu Stout Print Shop, restored and memorial-  
ized, can be a rallying point for the youth of America. Here  
they can be organized into a mighty crusade for the preser-  
vation of a free and independent press. This purpose looms  
large in the Association's program.

Your contribution to the Elihu Stout Print Shop Restoration  
Fund will be helpful and encouraging. It will entitle you to  
inclusion in the Founders' Scroll, to be incorporated in the  
restored structure, for posterity to read and note. Work is  
starting shortly.

Please be as generous as you can.

For a free press and all it represents,

Very sincerely yours,

LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

To  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Vincennes, Indiana

The undersigned wishes to make a contribution of \$..... to the Building Fund for the restoration, under your direction and auspices, of the Elihu Stout Printing Office at Vincennes, Indiana, and to so preserve to posterity an authentic replica of the first newspaper publishing office in Indiana and where, in March 1830, the then young Abraham Lincoln first saw a printing press and the operation of printing a newspaper and to furthering the other objectives of your Association as outlined in your prospectus.

Remittance is made herewith

or

Remittance will be made on or about.....

Please make checks or money orders payable to the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Inc.

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

Date.....



# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

VINCENNES, INDIANA

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

December 28, 1951

Please address any reply to  
252 Passaic Street  
Hackensack, New Jersey

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Ft. Wayne 1, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

First, I want to thank you for the courtesies you extended me  
last Friday when there.

Under date of December 20th your secretary sent me some back numbers  
of LINCOLN LORE, which I was indeed pleased to receive. I assure  
you that a file will be established for them. Already I have  
noted interesting details in going over them. I shall thank you  
very much if you place my name on your mailing list to receive  
future issues, and especially the one where you expect to mention  
our Vincennes project. To the extent that you may deem it appropriate,  
it would be of great value to the proposition if it were  
emphasized that the restoration is one that will be made possible  
by the contribution of Indiana citizens and natives, and that the  
more of them there are, the broader should be its interest to  
Indians. Obviously, the more they are in number the sooner  
the restoration can be started and completed.

THE NEW YORK TIMES of December 21st carried an article relative  
to a presentation of original manuscript of Lincoln's first draft  
of the Emancipation Proclamation. The clipped article is sent  
herewith for your information.

I am also taking steps to procure a glossy print of Albert T.  
Reid's pen drawing of Lincoln for your collection. It is the  
one that Mrs. John A. Logan wrote to Mr. Reid about in her own  
handwriting in 1922 I believe it was, stating that the likeness  
was one of the best she had ever seen of Lincoln. I shall also  
provide you with a photostatic copy of this letter. Mr. Reid still  
has the original.

With all good wishes for the New Year, I remain

Very sincerely yours

*Ralph F. Meeks*  
Ralph F. Meeks

R  
F  
M

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Past Regent, Francis Vigo  
Chapter, Daughters Of The  
American Revolution

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1193

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 18, 1952

## LINCOLN'S MEMORIES OF PRINCETON, INDIANA

Abraham Lincoln's trip to New Orleans in 1828 and his visits to the nearby towns of Boonville, Rockport and Troy comprise about all we know with reference to his travels as a youth while living in Indiana. However, he did spend one day in Princeton, a county seat town about 40 miles from his home.

Ninety-one years ago on the very day of the month this bulletin is dated Lincoln was in Lafayette, Indiana, on his way to be inaugurated at the nation's capital. When one of the members of the Lafayette welcoming committee, Robert Stockwell, was introduced to the President elect Mr. Lincoln inquired, "Are you a relative of the Stockwells who formerly lived in Princeton, Indiana? When Stockwell answered in the affirmative Mr. Lincoln volunteered this reminiscence, "When I was a boy about fifteen years of age I took some wool to Princeton to be carded. As I entered the village, I was struck with a quaint sign on the corner of the public square. It stood out in bold relief, ROBERT STOCKWELL, MERCHANT. It was the first time in my life that I had seen gold lettering on a sign and hence I was strongly impressed. I have never forgotten it."

Stockwell remarked that he was the same Robert Stockwell who was then a merchant at Princeton but many years ago had changed his place of business to Lafayette.

However retentive Lincoln's memory may have been in recalling the golden lettered sign upon hearing the name Stockwell, down deep in his heart were other memories which featured the Princeton visit—something much more attractive than the gold lettering had been brought to mind by another resident of the town he chanced to meet many years before.

Lincoln on one occasion attended a Whig barbecue at Carmi, Illinois, and on the following day accompanied Edwin B. Webb and his daughter to Mt. Carmel where Miss Webb was to attend school. Mt. Carmel was just across the Indiana state line in Illinois and only about ten miles from Princeton. After Lincoln had made a speech at the Mt. Carmel Whig meeting a man by the name of John M. Lockwood was introduced to Lincoln as a Hoosier from Princeton which drew from Lincoln this comment: "So you're from Princeton?" He pondered a moment and then added, "Well I was in Princeton myself once but it was a good many years ago." Following up these introductory statements, Lincoln reviewed a reminiscence that had smouldered in his memory. Lockwood reports his story in these words:

"A good many years ago when I was a boy I rode there from my home across the country on a flea-bitten gray mare, with a bunch of wool which my mother had sent

along to have carded. There was nothing so remarkable about such a journey in those days and I might in the course of time have forgotten it but for one incident. While waiting for the wool carder I strolled about the village and happened to pass on the street a very beautiful girl—the most bewitching creature it seemed to me I had ever seen. My heart was in a flutter. The truth is, I was so thoroughly captivated by the vision of maidenly beauty that I wanted to stop in Princeton forever, and that it was with only the greatest difficulty that I succeeded in persuading myself to leave the place at all. When I finally overcome my passionate yearning and set out on the long journey homeward it was with the fixed purpose to return." Lockwood inquired, "Did you return to meet the girl?" "No unfortunately I did not," replied Lincoln and continued, "What prevented my return I do not now recall but so deep an impression had the Princeton girl made on me I remember it was several years before her image was effaced from my mind and heart."

Lockwood heard the romantic tale through and then informed Lincoln that he was the young man at the mill who had carded the wool on that eventful day.

Lockwood had also recalled some incidents associated with the story which supplements what Lincoln remembered. Lockwood recalled that because of the very long distance which the gauky youth about his own age had come for the wool carding he put his work ahead of some others when it was customary for each to wait his turn. Lincoln had brought 18 pounds of wool and the charge for carding was three pounds. Lockwood also remembered that after Lincoln had watched the carding process awhile he sauntered up town. Upon his return he mentioned the beautiful girl he had seen and had learned that her name was Julia Evans. He wanted to know more about her. Lockwood said that he told him "She is a niece of my employer, James Evans" and "she is not only the handsomest but one of the best girls in town . . . and admittedly the village belle."

Possibly Lincoln's visit to Princeton was also recalled when he went to Congress in 1847 and found that one of the representatives from Indiana was Elisha Embree of Princeton. Lincoln and Embree became close personal friends and "occupied contiguous seats in the house." The fact that they were both originally from Southern Indiana and both Whigs gave them much in common to talk about. Later on in 1849 when Lincoln was seeking the general land office appointment for Illinois, he asked his friend Embree in a letter written on May 25, 1849, to write President Taylor in his behalf.

Among the many interesting journeys which Lincoln must have made in those early Hoosier days, next to the New Orleans experience he seems to have best remembered the visit to Princeton.



# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

## VINCENNES, INDIANA

May 6, 1952

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Director, The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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For The Preservation And  
Restoration of Historic Vincennes

MRS. FLORENCE G. WATTS

Past Regent, Francis Vigo  
Chapter, Daughters Of The  
American Revolution

Dear Dr. Warren:

Many organizational details have been thrashed out since I  
visited you in December and soon other important milestones  
are due to be reached.

For one thing, we hope to have the printing press there which  
is now in Philadelphia. That press, from all we have been able  
to establish, is an exact duplicate of the one Stout used in  
his shop in 1804.

Mr. Reid is now retouching his painting that is to hang in the  
restored Stout shop.

We hope to have the press and painting assembled for an exhibit  
in Vincennes in connection with an early effort to raise from  
\$3,000 to \$6,000 in that community. Planning the show is under  
way and a week set for it soon will be announced. Mr. Eugene  
C. Pulliam has agreed to match any sum of contributions raised  
in Vincennes up to around \$5,000. This important news in fund  
raising should put us well on our way to success. We feel sure  
we shall be able to procure the needed funds to insure the res-  
toration and its furnishings. I expect to spend considerable  
time in Indiana during the next few months in fund raising by  
personal solicitation, covering the State to the extent that  
may be necessary.

In connection with rounding out the organization, it has been  
decided to expand the Board of Trustees to eleven members adding  
to the five listed on this letterhead. Of the six remaining to  
be added, Messrs. Pulliam and Wray E. Fleming have accepted invi-  
tations. Mr. Howard C. Shepherd (Vincennes born), President,  
The National City Bank, New York, also has been invited. He has  
promised to make a contribution, and we now await his answer about  
becoming a board member. He is a very busy man as you would know,  
but we do hope he will join us. He is a Trustee of DePauw Univer-  
sity and is known to have an interest in Indiana's progress. I am  
sure he will be helpful with that large group of Indianians residing  
outside the state who have made good in the world of affairs.

We plan also to invite Dr. Howard H. Pecham and Dr. Herman B. Wells.  
If I recall correctly, the latter was your suggestion. Judge Shake  
and Mr. Pulliam concurred in the suggestion. If these gentlemen  
accept we then would have ten very desirable members, and of course



in any expansion to create statewide representation, we have always felt that you should be included to round out our group. If any of the four now being invited cannot serve, we should like to have your recommendation of someone who might. We received a small contribution from Fred Miller, Editor, South Bend. It has been suggested that he is Board material. We never heard from Helene Foellinger or the banker in Fort Wayne suggested by you. Also we have never had any peeps out of Mr. Gibson at Vincennes, but when I see him personally he may open up.

We do not expect members of the board to be called upon for time to be expended in detail work. Their attention to matters of policy and attendance at board meetings when convenient would suffice. But of course, if any board member wants to pitch in and help to make the project a quicker success, we should welcome that too.

More news later as matters unfold.

Very sincerely yours



Ralph F. Meeks  
For the Board  
Temporarily at  
254 West 47th Street  
New York 36, New York.

R  
F  
M

THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY, INC.  
PUBLISHERS . . . INDIANAPOLIS 7D.L. CHAMBERS  
PRESIDENT

November 5, 1952

Hon. Curtis G. Shake, President  
Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association  
Vincennes, Indiana

Dear Mr. Shake:

As head of an institution that has had a modest share in upbuilding the fine old legend of Vincennes, I am very much pleased to lend a hand in the effort to perpetuate that legend. It was in 1900 that our publishing house presented Maurice Thompson's romantic novel, Alice of Old Vincennes, to the reading world, and we are still proud of it! The story did as much as anything else, I dare say, to establish the historical background of your community.

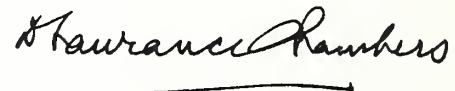
Since that original printing, your local community has restored the fine old Harrison house, and preserved the Territorial Capitol building. Also, since Alice so vividly impressed its legions of readers, the State and the Nation have joined in setting up the magnificent George Rogers Clark Memorial.

Restoration of the Elihu Stout printing and publishing house, first in the Northwest Territory, primitive as it was, seems to me to be a fitting next step in the program to preserve the Vincennes and Old Northwest picture for posterity. The free press was a vital factor in life back in those days, and it is just as vitally important today. The little Stout shop, with its Lincoln connotation, will be a refreshing reminder of that fact for the thousands of "pilgrims" who come to Vincennes every year, to see the memorials and the old Cathedral with its relics of pioneer days.

Mr. Stout's Western Sun has left a lineal descendant in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial, which uses the woodcut of Mr. Lincoln studying the old press in 1830. This moves me to say that if the future President had passed through Indianapolis eight years later, he could have seen the beginnings of Bobbs-Merrill, - for our house, still going, was founded way back yonder.

Cordially yours,

DLC-S

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This circular, "HISTORIC VINCENNES", provides original information concerning the objectives of this association. Below will be found data to bring it up to date.

#### Board of Governors

In addition to a Board of Trustees, there is now in process of formation, a 15-member Board of Governors. Chiefly it will comprise Indiana press leaders geographically distributed. Names of those who have accepted invitations to serve follow:

Ed J. Fehn, retired, former president, Evansville Courier, Evansville  
Wray E. Fleming, general counsel, Hoosier State Press Ass'n, Inc., Indianapolis  
Walter Lekrone, editor, Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis  
John C. Mellett, management representative, Pub. Serv. Co. of Ind., Plainfield  
Stephen C. Noland, editor and publisher, The Marion County Mail, Indianapolis  
Eugene C. Pulliam, publisher, The Indianapolis Star and The News, Indianapolis  
Albert T. Reid, owner, Albert T. Reid Syndicate, New York  
Hon. Henry F. Schricker, Governor, State House, Indianapolis  
Howard C. Shepherd, president, The National City Bank of New York, New York  
Dr. Herman B. Wells, president, Indiana University, Bloomington.

The Board of Governors will function in matters relating to the uses to which the completed memorial may be put in freedom of the press observances.

#### Plan of Financing

The budget for all purposes is \$25,000. Vincennes' quota is \$5,000. Local fund-raising is in final stages. When finished a pledge of \$2,500. becomes payable. Approximately \$17,000 is now being solicited from the historically and philanthropically minded of Indiana, from the printing industry, the typographical unions, and from persons of Indiana birth and rearing residing outside the state.

11-10-52

LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, Inc., P. O. Box 601, Vincennes, Indiana.

# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

VINCENNES, INDIANA

P. O. Box 601

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

November 13, 1952

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Director, The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

It just came to our attention that you will be  
here on the 19th to address a meeting, the Fort-  
nightly Club dinner, I believe it was stated.

On this trip could you not spare the time to have  
luncheon with Judge Shake and me? We should not like  
to have you in our midst with the occasion going un-  
marked as far as this association is concerned.

As to our project, we are in the final stages of  
Vincennes fund-raising. Our local goal is \$5,000.  
When we certify that we have reached it, Mr. Pulliam  
has pledged to donate \$2,500. We have another pledge  
of \$500 to collect also when we reach our local goal.  
Approximately \$600 has come in from various points  
around the state. So far we have not done a great  
deal of promotional work in state-wide directions  
except with the heads of organizations. Judging by  
the interest shown, such speak optimistically about  
what their units may be able to provide. As matters  
now appear, we feel sure that we shall be able to  
obtain our entire budget of \$25,000 without too much  
difficulty. We shall keep abreast of promotional  
development and trust for results that will permit  
us to start work on the memorial early next spring.

Hoping you will be able to visit with us when you  
are here and awaiting your advices with interest, we are

Very sincerely yours

  
Ralph F. Meeks

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F  
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MRS. FLORENCE G. WATTS  
Past Regent, Francis Vigo  
Chapter, Daughters Of The  
American Revolution



SPECIAL DELIVERY

November 17, 1952

Mr. Ralph F. Meeks  
Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association  
Vincennes, Indiana

My dear Mr. Meeks:

I will not arrive in Vincennes until after dinner Wednesday evening. I will address Vincennes University the next morning and will speak at the Bedford Rotary Club at noon. I doubt whether there will be time for a conference.

Very truly yours,

LAW:mm

Director

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Remittance is made herewith

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Remittance will be made on or about.....

Please make checks or money orders payable to the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Inc.

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

Date.....

# INDIANA

## HISTORY BULLETIN



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*for* MAY 1954

volume 31

number 5

*Published Monthly by*  
*the INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU Indianapolis*



## ELIHU STOUT'S PRINT SHOP

IN JULY, 1804, Elihu Stout established his printing press on St. Louis (now First) Street in Vincennes. The building stood in the middle of the block between Buntin and Broadway, opposite the present Baltimore and Ohio freight house. There he published the *Indiana Gazette*, our first newspaper. The prospect of restoring Stout's shop has long intrigued the historically-minded. An effort towards restoration begun in the early 1940's was interrupted by the war.

More recently the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association was organized to sponsor the project. On March 18, 1954, a ground-breaking ceremony initiated the final phase of the program. Mrs. Florence G. Watts, a trustee of the Association and the president of the Indiana Historical Society, turned the first shovel of earth. Among those present were Association board chairman, Judge Curtis G. Shake; board members, Dr. Isaac K. Beckes, Howard R. Burnett, and Ross H. Garrigus; Edson L. Nott and Robert D. Starrett, representing the Indiana Department of Conservation; and project architect, Richard E. Bishop.

Following the dedicatory exercises, now planned for Sunday, August 1, 1954, the restored shop will be transferred to the State of Indiana as a public memorial commemorating the sesquicentennial of Hoosier printing. The Department of Conservation will maintain the memorial. A resident custodian will be on duty.

The print shop, as restored, will be a replica of the building in which Stout is believed to have operated in the period, 1820-1845, following the destruction of his shop by fire in 1819. The building will measure eighteen by twenty-four feet. Every effort is being made to create an authentic restoration with only those modifications dictated by the requirements of durability and permanence needed in a memorial of this kind.

Hand-hewn beams and other lumber salvaged from the Francis Vigo home, which was razed in 1934, will be used in the restoration of the shop. These materials were pre-

served through the foresight of the Superintendent of the George Rogers Clark Memorial. The prototype of the restoration was torn down around 1914. At the time of its demolition the old building was in a dilapidated condition and it was thought to be approximately one hundred years old.

Printing equipment of Stout's period, such as a wooden press, type cases, type, and minor accessories, will be used as furnishings. A composing stone used by Stout has been donated by his great, great granddaughter, Mrs. Lawrence Risch of Vincennes. Several straight-back chairs known to have been Stout's property have been donated by members of the Indiana Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted.

The restoration is being financed by cash and material contributions from a variety of individuals and groups. The people of Vincennes raised a fund approximating thirty per cent of the original budget. The Ramage press, probably the most important furnishing, was donated by the John Wanamaker Store of Philadelphia. So far as the Association has been able to learn only seven such presses have survived. Its gift saved the Association an estimated \$2,000.

In order to complete the restoration in the manner originally planned, approximately \$15,000 must yet be raised. The Association believes that the historically-minded people of Indiana, as well as other interested groups, will want to have a part in creating this memorial. Contributions of any size will be welcomed either from organizations or individuals. Checks should be made out to the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Vincennes, Indiana. The names and addresses of all donors will be recorded in "The Great Book of Vincennes," which will be deposited in the memorial.

Ralph F. Meeks, Executive Secretary  
Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Inc.

# Lincoln-Free Press MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated

VINCENNES, INDIANA

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

July 27, 1954

RALPH F. MEEKS  
Executive Secretary

To the Newspapers of Indiana:

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WALLACE WEATHERHOLT  
Inheritance Tax Division, Indiana  
Department of State Revenue;  
Member of Board of Governors,  
Society of Indiana Pioneers,  
Indianapolis

DR. HERMAN B. WELLS, *president*,  
Indiana University, Bloomington

Supplementing my letter of July 16th to this group, I announce the completion and partial furnishing of the print shop restoration.

The restoration will be turned over to the Indiana Department of Conservation on August 1st, '54 for care and visitor reception. This action is desirable from the standpoint of the association. Thus it will be relieved of responsibility for a substantial number of daily visitors, who, after viewing the near-by William Henry Harrison mansion and the adjacent Territorial Capitol restored, under the custody of the Conservation Department, usually ask about "the little new building," and if they can go inside.

This action comes somewhat in advance of formal dedication, which must come later in 1954 and after the Conservation Department has completed some local landscaping.

Now about the dedication exercises: While they will be public, yet invitations will go to all of interest so that proper publicity may appear relative to the date, distinguished guests, and the name of the chief speaker, who will be a person of national stature.

A crowd of from 5,000 to 6,000 may be expected to attend. Ample free parking space will be available by the time of dedication. If inclement weather prevails, then the ceremonies can be held in the Coliseum. It will seat approximately 5,000 persons.

Cafeteria style meals will be served at normal prices in adjoining Harrison Park.

A luncheon at Association expense will be tendered to distinguished guests, speakers, the reception committee, the association's boards, and to the wives of the members of these groups who come along.

The speaker's stand will provide seats for those named in the foregoing paragraph. A local band will render appropriate airs.

For the visitors, we have a city rich in structures relating to early Indiana history, chief of which is the George Rogers Clark Memorial, said to be the finest example of classical architecture outside of the Washington, D. C. area. To see all of them will require several hours of touring. Visitors may procure the Fort-nightly Club guidebook at a small cost. It contains a picture and full description of each spot to be visited. With this guidebook in hand, all historical spots may be located in an orderly and expeditious manner.

As to the composition of the all-important reception committee, we should like ten members to come from the press state-wide. The printers group will be asked to designate six; the printer suppliers, six; the history-minded, six; and the printshop unions, two.

I am asking Mr. E. H. Harris, Co-Publisher of THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM-ITEM and president of the H.S.P.A., to form a committee of ten representative newspaper men throughout Indiana who will accept and serve on this very important committee of honor.

Very sincerely yours,

*Curtis G. Shake*  
Curtis G. Shake,  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

*Dr. Warren will  
dedicate date 10/10 - or 10/17.  
He either takes one date for  
his dedication, then new  
School of Journalism Bldg  
and this is in the other  
you and Mr. Hawkins will  
be invited as distinguished  
guests. Meeks  
7/28.*



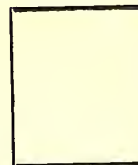
*Dr. Warren*  
*Here are all papers referred to when*  
*I phoned you from Anderson*  
*yesterday. Will give you some notice*  
*of when I expect to be there next week*  
*Thank you*  
LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Dedicated to the restoration of the first  
newspaper plant in the Indiana Territory  
*Ralph F. Meeks*  
*12/15*

RALPH F. MEEKS

VINCENNES, INDIANA

RETURN TO

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

VINCENNES, INDIANA



# Dedication of Old Western Sun Memorial Set for Sunday, October 7



Above is the replica of the old Western Sun office where the first newspaper in Indiana was printed in 1804.

The Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, the sponsoring organization which created the Western Sun Publishing and Printing Memorial, announced today that a formal dedication of the memorial will take place on Sunday, October 7th. Outdoor ceremonies are planned. If inclement weather prevails, then adjournment can be made to the nearby Vincennes University auditorium. There is ample space for any expected crowd and for visitor car parking.

Customarily, the first week in October is observed as National Newspaper Week, this being the occasion when newspaper editors and publishers foregather to discuss problems related to the welfare of the press. Hence, during the first week of October, the time will be altogether fitting in which to dedicate the printing memorial as Indiana's contribution to the honoring of the nation's newspapers.

Association efforts now will be concentrated on arrangements for a program equal in scope to the historical significance of a restoration commemorating the 1804 establishment of publishing in the old Indiana Territory by Elihu Stout.

In due course, local and statewide committees will be appointed to attend to the numerous details involved. Able speakers prominent in the national scene will be sought for the occasion. It is hoped to create a smooth operation so that all may enjoy the affair thoroughly,

especially out-of-town visitors, whom it is hoped will carry away desires to make repeat visits to historic Vincennes.

While the memorial building was completed and partially furnished in July 1954, the interior was far from presenting an aspect of completeness and realism. Constantly, the Association sought to create an interior scene at once realistic and warm to the senses. To a considerable degree, it believes it has succeeded in dispelling the austerity frequently associated with museums.

Old printing accessories and devices of Stout's period were not easy of procurement, and their accumulation was a tedious task. By the time the building was completed, it was perceived that many weeks would pass ere all desirable furnishings and exhibits could be acquired either by purchase or donation.

In the meantime, visitors to the adjacent Territorial Capitol were making inquiries of the custodian relative to the significance of "the little building" nearby, and asking if it could be entered.

Since the printing memorial was destined ultimately to become a gift to the State of Indiana, and since its agency, the Department of Conservation, maintained a custodian for the square block of ground upon which the Territorial Capitol and Western Sun memorials stood the question naturally arose as to why the state should not accept the new

Reprint from  
VINCENNES  
SUN-COMMERCIAL  
April 2, 1956

memorial and throw it open to the public at once, even though it was in an incomplete state of furnishing.

The Department of Conservation fell in with the idea with the result that on August 1st, 1954, it took over the property for preservation, custodial care, and the maintenance of public visiting hours. A brief ceremony marked the event, as also did a special 64-page edition of the Sun-Commercial, of which Stout's first newspapers; namely, the Indiana Gazette and The Western Sun were the ancestors.

The right was reserved to the Association to continue the deposit of old-time printing devices, accessories, furnishings, and exhibits in the memorial, and this activity continued with all dispatch. The installation of period relics has proceeded to a number where the hoped for realism is nearing full achievement. By dedication date, little or nothing of essential furnishing needs should remain to be acquired.

Judge Curtis G. Shake, chairman of the board of trustees, Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, has stated that following the dedication and the dissolution of the Association, a voluntary and self-perpetuating committee of history-minded local citizens will be formed to co-operate with the Indiana Department of Conservation to the end that the welfare and public interest in the memorial may be kept alive.

# *Lincoln-Free Press* MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

*Incorporated*

VINCENNES, INDIANA

P. O. Box 533

August 30, 1956

RALPH F. MEEKS  
*Executive Secretary*

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
the First Newspaper Plant in the  
Indiana Territory and to the  
Preservation of a Free Press

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Inheritance Tax Division, Indiana  
Department of State Revenue;  
Member of Board of Governors,  
Society of Indiana Pioneers,  
Indianapolis

DR. HERMAN B. WELLS, president,  
Indiana University, Bloomington

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

This Association requests the pleasure of your  
presence at a complimentary luncheon to be ten-  
dered the distinguished visitors who come to the  
dedication of the Elihu Stout Print Shop, a unit  
of Indiana Territory State Memorial, on Sunday,  
October 7th, 1956.

Assembly for the luncheon will be at 11 a. m.  
in the nearby Vincennes University Auditorium.

Dedication exercises will start at 2 p. m., and  
last for about an hour. This event will be on  
the grounds adjacent to the printing memorial.

Altogether a day of interesting features has  
been planned starting with a wreath-laying cere-  
mony on the grave of Elihu Stout at 9:30 a. m.  
This feature will be conducted under the aus-  
pices of the Indiana Typographical Unions Con-  
ference.

Emphasis at both the luncheon and dedication will  
be on short talks from several of the distin-  
guished guests expected to be present. No formal  
speakers have been engaged.

Do come if you can and join with us in paying  
tribute to the first printer in the great mid-west  
region now comprising five populous states.

It will help in arrangements if you will kindly  
advise as soon as possible if you will be present.

Very sincerely yours

*Curtis G. Shake*  
Curtis G. Shake  
Chairman of the Boards



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Incorporated

VINCENNES, INDIANA

P. O. Box 533

Dedicated to the Restoration of  
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Executive Secretary

SEPTEMBER 19, 1956

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Inheritance Tax Division, Indiana  
Department of State Revenue;  
Member of Board of Governors,  
Society of Indiana Pioneers,  
Indianapolis

DR. HERMAN B. WELLS, president,  
Indiana University, Bloomington

DR. R. GERALD MCMURTRY, DIRECTOR  
THE LINCOLN NATION LIFE FOUNDATION  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

DEAR DR. MCMURTRY:

JUDGE SHAKE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN FROM  
YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 14TH THAT YOU  
WILL BE WITH US FOR THE DEDICATION OF  
THE ELIHU STOUT PRINT SHOP MEMORIAL ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH.

A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON TICKET IS IN-  
CLOSED.

THE ASSOCIATION SENT A GENERAL INVITA-  
TION TO EACH CONTRIBUTOR WHO HELPED TO  
MAKE THE PROJECT POSSIBLE. ONE OF THESE  
IS SENT HERewith SINCE IT CONTAINS A CAL-  
ENDAR OF EVENTS AND GIVES AN OUTLINE OF  
THE DEDICATION PROGRAM.

WE PLAN SO SPECIAL SPEAKERS AT EITHER  
THE LUNCHEON OR DEDICATION. RATHER, WE  
SHALL RELY ON SHORT TALKS AT EACH EVENT  
FROM AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS  
PRESENT. THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO SPEAK  
IN ADVANCE SO THAT THEY MAY BE PROGRAMED  
FOR THE HISTORICAL RECORD AND THE BENEFIT  
OF THOSE WHO ATTEND.

WE SPOKE TO THE GRAND HOTEL HERE MAKING A  
RESERVATION FOR THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 6TH-  
A SINGLE WITH BATH, WHICH WAS QUOTED FROM  
\$3.75 TO \$5.25. THE MANAGEMENT WILL CONFIRM  
TO YOU. WE THINK YOU WILL FIND THE ACCOMMO-  
DATIONS GOOD AT THIS HOTEL. IT IS CENTRALLY  
LOCATED WITH AMPLE FREE PARKING ACROSS THE  
STREET.

LOOKING FORWARD TO GREETING YOU WE ARE

VERY CORDIALLY YOURS

*Ralph F. Meeks*





*The Trustees and Board of Governors*  
*OF*  
*Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association*  
  
*REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE*  
*AT THE*  
*DEDICATION EVENTS*  
*OF*  
*Elihu Stout Print Shop, A Unit of Indiana*  
*Territory State Memorial*  
  
*Sunday*  
  
*October 7, 1956*  
  
*Vincennes, Indiana*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

**9:30 A. M.** Wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Elihu Stout (1782-1860) in the old Vincennes Cemetery under the auspices of the Indiana Typographical Unions Conference, President William C. Schafer of Fort Wayne, speaking. Past President Wilbur C. Wagner, committeeman in charge.

**11:00 A. M.** Assembly in the Vincennes University Auditorium, adjacent to the Memorial, for the luncheon in honor of the distinguished visitors. Those to be honored will be greeted by a committee, the members of which will come from the groups of interest responsible for the creation of the memorial. To the extent that seating is available, the public is invited on a first come, first served basis. Approximately 400 diners can be comfortably accommodated. The price of the luncheon will be \$1.75. Tickets may be procured in advance by writing the Association, or they may be had at the door. Other eating facilities are in the neighborhood.

**12:00 Noon** Luncheon.

**1:00 P. M.** The Old Time Printers Association of Indianapolis will call a meeting to order in the Elihu Stout Print Shop and then adjourn to the porch outside where Association Board Chairman Curtis G. Shake will give a brief address.

**1:15 P. M.** Concert by the famous Vincennes Lincoln High School Marching Band (1955-1956 state champions). Hal Meurer and Del Kieffner, Directors.

**2:00 P. M.** Dedication ceremony of the Elihu Stout Print Shop as a new unit of Indiana Territory State Memorial. This event will take place on the grounds in front of the Memorial, and will run for about one hour and fifteen minutes.

★ ★ ★

**NOTES:** The Elihu Stout Print Shop will be open to visitors throughout the day except during the hour of dedication.

Visitors to Vincennes may register on the grounds for free guided tours about the historic city of Vincennes. This period will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In case visitors desire to come on Saturday, October 6th, and remain over night, the Association will be pleased to make hotel or motel reservations upon request. Address: Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, P. O. Box 533, Vincennes, Indiana. Telephone: Vincennes 435.

OUTLINE  
OF  
PROGRAM OF DEDICATION

THE HONORABLE CURTIS G. SHAKE, *Presiding*

BAND MUSIC, "*On the Banks of the Wabash*" . . . . . *Paul Dresser*

Indiana state song as rendered by the Vincennes Lincoln High  
School Marching Band, with audience standing.

INVOCATION . . . . .

ADDRESS OF WELCOME . . . . . *The Honorable Lloyd T. Wampler,*  
*Mayor of Vincennes*

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

SPEECH OF PRESENTATION . . . . . *Judge Curtis G. Shake*

(Wherein the Elihu Stout Print Shop will be offered as a gift to  
the State of Indiana to become a permanent memorial commem-  
orating the 1804 establishment of printing and publishing in the  
old Indiana Territory.)

SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR OF INDIANA:

REMARKS FROM AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

BENEDICTION:

BAND MUSIC, "*The Star Spangled Banner*."

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Member names will appear on program available free to all on date of dedication.

## VINCENNES COMMITTEES ON ARRANGEMENTS

These members likewise will be listed on dedication program.

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(This invitation printed as a courtesy of Wm. B. Burford Printing Co., Indianapolis.  
Paper and envelopes as a courtesy of Crescent Paper Co., Indianapolis)







ELIHU STOUT

*Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association*

*Elihu Stout Print Shop Dedication*

*Sunday*

*October 7, 1956*

*Vincennes, Indiana*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

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**11:00 A. M.** Assembly in the Vincennes University Auditorium, adjacent to the Memorial, for the luncheon in honor of the distinguished visitors. Those to be honored will be greeted by a committee, the members of which will come from the groups of interest responsible for the creation of the memorial. To the extent that seating is available, the public is invited on a first come, first served basis. Approximately 400 diners can be comfortably accommodated. The price of the luncheon will be \$1.75. Tickets may be procured in advance by writing the Association, or they may be had at the door. Other eating facilities are in the neighborhood.

### **12:00 Noon** Luncheon.

The Honorable Curtis G. Shake, Presiding.

Invocation: Dr. Ray H. Montgomery, Pastor, First Christian Church, Vincennes.

Speakers at this event will include Mr. Charles E. Kennedy, president, International Graphic Arts Education Ass'n, Nashville, Tenn.; Mr. John F. Schrodt, Head, Dept. of Journalism, Franklin College, Franklin, Ind.; Mr. Eugene C. Pulliam, Publisher, *The Indianapolis Star* and *The News*, Indianapolis, and Mr. Kenneth Orr, Dir. of Special Education Div., Office of State Supt. of Public Instruction, Indianapolis.

Benediction: The Very Reverend Paul A. Deery, Pastor, The Old Cathedral, Vincennes.

**1:00 P. M.** The Old Time Printers Association of Indianapolis will call a meeting to order in the Elihu Stout Print Shop and then adjourn to the porch outside where Association Board Chairman Curtis G. Shake will give a brief address.

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Indiana state song as rendered by the Vincennes Lincoln High  
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SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR OF INDIANA:

Hubert H. Hawkins, Director, Indiana Historical Bureau.

REMARKS FROM AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

Dr. Lewis Beeson, Executive Secretary, Michigan State Historical  
Commission, Lansing, representing the governor of Michigan; Dr.  
Robert R. Martin, Supt. of Public Instruction, representing the  
Commonwealth of Kentucky; Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
Emeritus, Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, and  
Dr. Herman B Wells, President, Indiana University.

BENEDICTION . . . . . *Dr. Ray H. Montgomery, Pastor,  
First Christian Church, Vincennes*

BAND MUSIC, "*The Star Spangled Banner*."

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Society of Indiana Pioneers,  
Indianapolis

DR. HERMAN B. WELLS, president,  
Indiana University, Bloomington

### COMMITTEE FOR THE RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

#### CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE GROUPS OF INTEREST WHICH CREATED THE PRINTING MEMORIAL

##### FROM INDIANAPOLIS:

Lyndon K. Beals, Charles A. Bookwalter, Elmer E. Bredensteiner, Joseph E. Bright,  
Eural B. Byfield, Joseph H. Clendenin, J. Landon Davis, Thomas S. Elrod, Miss Helen A.  
Humphrey, Arthur O. Koett, J. Otto Lee, Charles P. Lesh, Jr., Mrs. R. L. Machael, John  
R. Roberts, and Russell H. Simpson.

Richard Johnson, Boonville, Indiana.

##### FROM VINCENNES:

A. C. Diekmeyer, Mrs. Clarence E. Gayer, Medford L. Grover, Mrs. Joseph A. Meurer,  
John H. Meyers, Mrs. Paul Reitmeyer, Mrs. Woodford Lawrence.

Leonard F. McCauley, Washington, Indiana.



# INDIANA GAZETTE

Independence is my happiness, and I relate things as they are, without respect to place or persons. PAINE.

[No. 2.]

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

[Vol. I.]

VINCENNES. (L. T.) PAINTER & E. STOUT, ON ST. LOUIS STREET.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

AT length after great trouble and much expence the Public is presented with the first number of the *Indiana Gazette*. Without deviating from the general rule of News-Paper Printers, in the first number the Editor addresses the Public, and lays down the principles which shall govern the publication. His object shall be to collect and publish such information as will give a correct account of the productions and natural advantages of the Territory, to give the latest foreign and domestic intelligence—Original Essays, Political, Moral, Literary, Agricultural, and on Domestic Economics—to select such fugitive literary productions as will tend to raise "The generous or to mend the heart," &c. &c. shall be the second.

The political complexion of the paper shall be truly republican; but it never shall be prostituted to party—Essays of any political complexion, couched in decent language shall find a ready insertion,—but the Editor pledges himself that the columns of the Gazette, shall never be tarnished with matter that can offend the eye of decency, or raise a blush upon the cheek of modesty and virtue.

With this outline the *Indiana Gazette* is submitted for patronage, to a generous and enlightened public,—and the Editor feels confident of encouragement, equal to his merit,—and though it is not always in our power to command success, yet he will ever "endeavor to deserve it."

E. STOUT.

## Terms of the Gazette.

- I. It shall be published weekly on a medium paper.
- II. THE price to subscribers will be two dollars and fifty cents, payable half yearly in advance. Those who do not come forward at the expiration of the first six months, and make the second advance, will be charged with an additional fifty cents.
- III. No Subscriber taken for a less term than one year, unless he pays the whole term of his subscription in advance.
- IV. WHERE-EVER papers are

sent by post, the person subscribing must pay the postage.

Advertisements of no more length than breadth, inserted three times for one dollar and fifty cents, and twenty-five cents for each continuance.

## By Authority.

## EIGHTH CONGRESS

of the

## UNITED STATES,

at the first session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington, in the Territory of Columbia, on Monday the seventeenth of October, one thousand eight hundred and three.

## AN ACT

For the relief of certain military pensioners in the State of South Carolina.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the persons to whom military pensions have been heretofore granted and paid by the State of South Carolina, in pursuance of the resolves of the United States, in Congress assembled, for the payment of pensions to the invalids who were wounded and disabled during the late war with Great-Britain, and who have not been placed on the books, in the office of the Secretary for the department of War, shall be, and the same hereby are directed to be placed on said books, and their said pensions shall be hereafter paid by the United States, in the same manner as to other pensioners of the United States out of the funds already appropriated for that purpose.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in placing the names of pensioners on the books, pursuant to the directions contained in the foregoing section, the Secretary of War shall be guided by a certificate from the State of South Carolina, when the same shall be delivered to him, under the proper authentications, which certificate shall specify the names of pensioners and sums of pension; and likewise that they have not been paid since March the fourth, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, by said State; which certificate shall be recorded in the books of the department of War, and the original kept on file. And each officer, non-commissioned officer, and soldier, whose name shall be placed on said list as a pensioner, in conformity to the provisions of this act, or in case of the death of any such officer, non-commissioned officer, or soldier, his heirs or legal representatives shall receive a pension equal to the arrears of his pension, which shall have accrued from and after the fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, until the

passage of this act, or until the death of such pensioner, as aforesaid, as the case may be; which arrears shall be ascertained and certified by the register of the Treasury in the same manner, and under the same restrictions as are contained in the act passed the eleventh day of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, intitled "An act for the relief of the persons therein mentioned or described." Provided, That the commutation of half pay which may have been received by any commissioned officer entitled to a pension, as aforesaid, shall first be returned by such officer into the Treasury of the United States, and shall be deducted from the arrears of pension directed to be paid by this act.

NATHL. MACON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A. BURR,

Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 3, 1864

Approved,

TH: JEFFERSON.

## For the Indiana Gazette.

— + + + + +

## THE SHIP CONSTITUTION.

THE ship Constitution built at Philadelphia in the year 1788, was completely rigged and manned in 1792, & sailed under the command of general Washington, an experienced officer & faithful helmsman, on a cruise for the joint benefit of the builders, owners, and crew: twelve years she ran safe, tho' constantly exposed to quick sands, rocks, false currents, boisterous winds and pirates, rovers and jettisons in 1801, some of the small owners, together with a number of negroes, who had been unadvisedly permitted to intermeddle with the concern, and a number of foreigners who had wheedled themselves into the partnership, insisted on changing the Constitution and other officers, and putting on new sails, their pretences was that the old officers had too high wages, and that they were about chaining the men and owners together and confining them in the hold; these fellows made such a row that the change took place, and the command of the ship was given to Thomas Jefferson, who had never lifted a finger towards building or manning her: one of these foreigners was made purser, and some who had never been employed in sea service at all, except as commanders, boatwains, cooks or cabin boys of small craft, made principal officers—the sails which were made of the best manufactured duck were taken off, and a new set of thin flaxen rascals were put on: these had nothing to recommend them but their colour which was of a bright red—as to the wages of the officers nothing was done—these who had made the row received them, the failed in March 1801, and on her quitting the dock appeared beautiful. The Commander however, had always been of the opinion that the only safety to such a ship was to keep her on temperate seas, and never let go any anchor to restrain her liberty, he said that if the voyage was smooth and easy, the crew would always be conceiving measures to sink her, or to imprison the owners, and run away with the ship, he therefore hoisted all the sail and let her go before the wind, some of the officers who had been appointed during good behavior as judges respecting any controversy among the owners thought these proceedings wrong, and were quite opposed to such hazardous schemes, capt. Jefferson displaced all these, and with them left his fleet anchor—however this was a trifling evil, as he had determined never to come too. The ship has been running now more than three years, in all latitudes and generally without a compass—the officers being well paid keep up good spirits: some of the crew are sea sick, and the most wife and prudent among the owners are so fearful of a total loss that they are almost ready to abandon the property: but you the capt. was so much alarmed at some French and Spaniards who spoke to him from a little barge, & showed one small gun, that he ran the ship into the Mississippi, up the Missouri, and she struck against a rock at salt, and damaged her to the amount of fifteen millions of dollars, besides this, he was obliged to admit into the ship a parcel of ignorant, vicious foreigners, who with those already there, will probably raise a mutiny and run away with her, in short the ship is so weather beaten and so badly managed, that those who knew her in 1800, now frequently mistake her for a West-India schooner—the captain took it into his head last year to dictate a new method of chugging the first and second officers, this was a sore thing to many of the owners, and they disagreed much on the subject; the better opinion is, that this was a plan of his to secure himself in the command for life, and to make the voyage profitable to that part of the owners who live in Virginia, and who are now the ruling partners of the firm. Those owners who live in Connecticut took up the subject by their agents last Wednesday, and decided upon it on Thursday; a majority were of opinion that the proposed alteration should not be adopted; on this occasion it was amusing to see young chaps who had never been any thing but purser, boatswain, and cooks, and miserable ones too, giving their opinions about the command of this ship, striplings who had never seen any water craft larger than an oyster boat or fishing smack, speak a very loud, and much to their own satisfaction upon a question which had been deliberately decided by such experienced commanders as Washington, Ellsworth and Johnson. Several of them were evidently in too deep water, and after paddling, "paddling and spouting for a while, were drawn out by the heels almost exhausted, a proportion of those who were in favor of the measure knew nothing about it, but they trusted entirely to the orders of the captain of the ship, & his boatswain William Duane, who had the majority of the owners in Connecticut are determined to prevent it, possible the ship from being eternally tossed at them, pellucids seas, there are no more the Constitution, & so on. It is remarkable also that those who are most violent for the alteration, are the most inconsiderable owners, many of them being entitled to nothing but a rope end: they are anxious undoubtedly for a wreck that they may take part of the spoil. It is believed however, that the quarters of the owners in the United States will consent to the new arrangement, and the present captain be established for life; what will then become of the ship the most skillful mariner cannot tell, the probability however is, that she will be sold a



# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

THE HONORABLE CURTIS G. SHAKE, *Chairman of the Boards*  
*Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Indiana; Former Executive*  
*Presiding Judge, U.S. Military Tribunal VI, Nuremberg, Germany*

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Leonard F. McCauley, Washington, Indiana.

is the grateful tribute of the people of Indiana to those sturdy pioneers who had the vision and the fortitude to establish and maintain a free press on the western frontier.

**THE MOVEMENT** to establish this shrine was formally launched by the incorporation of the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association on December 10, 1951. The building was completed and placed in custody of the Indiana Department of Conservation on August 1, 1954.

[This noteworthy achievement was made possible by generous donations from hundreds of individuals, groups and organizations from Indiana and elsewhere. The names of all contributors, as well as of those who have given valuable objects for furnishing and equipping the building, are listed in an appropriate book, which is open to inspection.

[illegible]

ERN SUN memorial:  
The Klamath press in THE WEST-  
ern Sun memorial:  
"This old printing press was  
made by Adam Klamath during the  
period 1807-1817. It is said to be  
an outstanding example of sturdy  
ness in an early nineteenth century  
Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.  
"Klamath was a director of the  
presses of the middle 1830s grad-  
ually superseded wooden presses.  
easier to repair. Improved iron  
silence in operation and were re-  
non presses. They had more re-

she operated for years until 1890 and sold it to Smith, Reading. "Elizabeth's" printer sales for a line of many sides—Ann James Francis Nulthead and Maryland and Charleston, Rhode Island, Zenger of never dau their lot to "In 1947 Primer Storer made a gift in 1953. "Elitha Storer used during his exiles 1843."



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On changing the command, the officers and crew, and putting on new sails, their pretences were then the old officers had too high wages, and that they were about chaining the men and lowering to the bottom, and ordering them to the hold; these fellows made such a row that the change took place, and the command of the ship was given to Thomas Jefferson, who had never lifted a finger towards building or manning her; one of these foreigners was a Frenchman, and some who had never been employed in the service at all, except as commanders, boatmen, cooks or cabin boys of small craft, made principal officers—the sails which were made of the best manufactured dock were taken off, and a new set of this flimsy stuff were put on; these had nothing to recommend them but their colour which was a light blue—so to the women of the officers' families was done. The crew, who had made the four cruises, were let go any number to restrain her liberty, he said that if the voyage was smooth and easy, the crew would always be conceiving measures to sink her, or to imprison the owners, and run away with the ship, he therefore pulled all the sails and let her go before the wind, some of the officers who had been appointed during good behavior as judges respecting any controversy among the owners thought these proceedings wrong, and were quite opposed to such hazardous schemes; Capt. Jefferson displayed all these, and with them left his Greek anchor—however this was a trifling evil, as he had determined never to come too. 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Several of them were evidently in too deep water, and after polling, "muzzling and spouting for a while, was drawn out by the heels and abandoned, a proportion of those who were in the of the creature knew nothing about it, but they trusted entirely to the orders of the captain of the ship, & his brother William Doane, who was assisted by a number of the owners, and as they are determined to prevent it, it is probable the ship from being eternally sold to them, perhaps less, there is a great deal to be said for the owners, who are remarkable also that those who are most violent for the alteration, are the most unmerciful owners, many of these being entitled to nothing but a reward; they are anxious undoubtedly for a week that they may take part of the spoil. 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(This reproduction was provided through the courtesy of Vincennes University, the owner of an original edition of this old newspaper, Philippe Engravers, Vincennes, maker of the plate, and the Vincennes Sun-Commercial who furnished the paper and printing.)



## THE RESTORATION SUN

"It Shines for All"

MEMORIAL-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL  
ASSOCIATION, Publisher,  
Vincennes, Indiana

RALPH F. MEERS, Editor

No rights reserved. Articles appearing herein, or excerpts thereof, may be freely copied, provided the Association be acknowledged. However, the Association believes a sense of fairness will stimulate the idea that credit for such work should be given.

First issued on the occasion of the completion of the WESTERN SUN PUBLISHING AND PRINTING MEMORIAL at Vincennes, to commemorate the establishment of printing and journalism in the old Indiana Territory in 1804 by printer Elihu Stout with the aid of the first territorial governor, William Henry Harrison.

Vol. I. No. 5 No. 2

## OUR FORMAT

When the question arose concerning the best means of providing visitors with background information on the WESTERN SUN printing memorial, the feasibility of issuing a formal booklet was discussed.

Souvenir booklets, some of them costly and offered for sale to cover production costs, or even to provide a profit, appeared inappropriate for a setting where those who visit this shrine are asked to return their thoughts to a bygone printing era.

Hence, to keep the matter homespun, and for another reason herein given, it was decided to resort to simple printing and to utilize the newspaper format.

A reproduction of the first page of Elihu Stout's newspaper, the INDIANA GAZETTE, Vol. I, No. 3 (there is no No. 1 known to exist), was decided upon as a frontispiece. Pages 2, 3, and 4 would be devoted to an outline of the career of Elihu Stout, the genesis of the memorial project, the restoration itself, and other odds and ends of human interest.

And, most convincing of all reasons advanced for utilizing the newspaper format instead of producing a souvenir booklet, was that an adequate presentation thus could be provided at a cost to permit distribution on a giveaway basis.

We bent our energies to the task under this plan. No attempt has been made to achieve literary excellence. Rather, the emphasis has been placed on the chronology of events, qualifying dates when necessary and stating them definitely when supported by some reliable recordings.

Here you have the product of our efforts, and with the compliments of the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association. Take this sheet home with you; lay it away in a book, or more it in the attic. Then perhaps in fifty or a hundred years from now, your descendants will run across it, display it eagerly as a memento of the past, and deposit it (we hope they will) in the files of their city library or local historical society.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors of the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association; the citizens of Vincennes, and the people of Indiana, we express the hope that all are enjoying their trip to Vincennes, and that each will take delight in the fact that Indiana has a new memorial unique among those of the country.

The 21x26 oil painting of Elihu Stout hanging on the wall near the type cases was painted in 1864 by Simon P. Baus, Indianapolis. For this portrait, Mr. Baus used as his prototype, the original of picture of Stout elsewhere shown.

The wooden paper cutter on exhibit is a recent accession from the Ohio Mechanics Institute, Cincinnati, which generously returned it to Indiana upon representations that it had use in an early paper mill at Brookville. It was saved from almost certain destruction in 1918 by Will J. McKewen, Indianapolis printer. More details about this relic will be given when its history unfolds.

## ELIHU STOUT BROUGHT PRINTING TO INDIANA

Few indeed are the number of genealogists who are unacquainted with the circumstances of the founding of the Stout line in America, and of the related Penelope Van Princes legend.

Richard Stout fled England as a man-of-war sailor to escape his father's ire at refusal to accept the parental choice of a bride. He left ship at New Amsterdam, and is said to have been the first Englishman to settle in New Jersey. He died in 1705.

About the year 1642, Penelope Van Princes was voyaging to the New World with her husband, surmamed Kent, when their ship was wrecked on the New Jersey coast near Sandy Hook. Washed ashore as the sole survivor, she was attacked by Indians and left for dead with grievous body wounds. A passing friendly Indian, suturing her lacerations with native materials, carried her to his tribal camp near what is now Ft. Monmouth. Here Penelope recovered, later to become the wife of Richard Stout.

Elihu Stout was of the fifth generation of Stouts in America when he was born at Newark, N. J., on April 16, 1782, the son of Judah and Mary Stout.

## STOUT IN KENTUCKY

## AND TENNESSEE

About ten years after the conclusion of the War of Independence, Judah Stout and his family migrated to Kentucky. Soon after arriving, young Elihu was apprenticed to the Bradfords to learn the trade of printing. Young Elihu must have made the most of his opportunities, for in 1798, when Judah Stout assumed the ownership of the Kentucky state printing contract for his Frankfort GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM newspaper, he cited that of the eleven known "printers" or "artists" in the region, five were on his staff. Elihu Stout was of this number.

Some accounts state that Stout quit his Kentucky job in 1799, and left for Vincennes to enlist the interest of business men in the publication of a newspaper. If true, then he was not successful, for next he is heard of working at his trade in Nashville. Here he must have remained over an extended period of months. He formed a lasting friendship with Andrew Jennings, his editorially doubtless influenced his editorial pronouncements and political career, since he became a staunch Jackson follower and his principles for which Jackson stood.

## HARRISON THE PATRON

In the meantime, William Henry Harrison had arrived at Vincennes in 1801, to organize and administer the newly created Indiana Territory as its first governor.

In Nashville, it early came to Stout's notice that Governor Harrison was having his official printing done by William Hunter at Frankfort, Kentucky. Reasoning that Harrison could use a printer and a newspaper at Vincennes, Stout quit his job to seek an interview with Harrison on the subject. Harrison fell in with Stout's plans.

He equipped a pirogue for Stout's return trip to Frankfort, where with the friendly help of the Bradfords, printing equipment was assembled at the Falls of the Ohio preparatory to forwarding to Vincennes. The equipment is said to have been transported by water to Vincennes, while the supplies went by horse-drawn cart over the buffalo trace.

## INITIATION OF INDIANA JOURNALISM

According to contemporary historians, Stout issued his first newspaper, the INDIANA GAZETTE, on July 4, 1804.

In April, 1806, the INDIANA GAZETTE shop and its contents were destroyed by fire. The last issue of the newspaper was Vol. II, No. 20 issued on the twelfth.

Again with Governor Harrison's help, Stout journeyed to Kentucky for a printing outfit.

July 4, 1807, Stout's paper reappeared, but with the name changed to THE WESTERN SUN. The title was altered to THE WESTERN SUN & GENERAL ADVERTISER with effect of December 6, 1817.

Stout suffered his second disaster on February 28, 1819, but all equipment was saved and only a quantity of paper was lost.

the first newspaper established in Terre Haute.

## OFFICIAL PRINTING

## BY STOUT

Without reference to Stout's career as a public printer, an outline of his life would be incomplete. He did the official printing of the Indiana Territory from 1804 to 1813.

What is generally considered the first book printed in Indiana Territory was the "Laws Adopted by the Governor and Judges of the Indiana Territory, at their Second and Third sessions, Begun and held at Vincennes, 20th January, 1802, & February 16th, 1803." It bore the imprint: "Vincennes, (I. T.), printed by E. Stout, 1804."

Stout's imprint also is found in a volume of 137 pages, the title page of which reads as follows: "Laws for the Government of the District of Louisiana passed by the Governor and Judges of the Indiana Territory, at their first session Begun and Held at Vincennes, on Monday, the first day of October, 1804." This publication pertained to the period when the upper part of the Louisiana Purchase was also under the jurisdiction of Governor Harrison with capital at Vincennes.

In 1816, he printed, "The Constitution of the State of Indiana," with the imprint: "Vincennes; printed by Elihu Stout, 1816."

The last of Stout's official printing was, "A Compend of the Laws of Indiana from the year Eighteen Hundred and Seven until that of Eighteen Hundred and Fourteen, Both Inclusive," prepared by General W. Johnston, of Vincennes, and issued "From the Press of Elihu Stout, Vincennes, 1817." Stout bound the books he printed, and with hard covers if ordered. Some examples of them extant are in excellent condition.

Elihu Stout quit his printing career in 1815 by selling his business to John R. Jones.

## STOUT AND HIS FAMILY

On April 24, 1805, Elihu Stout was married to Lucy Sullivan, the daughter of General James Sullivan, a Kentucky planter, living near Louisville. To this union was born five children, namely, Susu, Mary, Eliza, Henry, and James.

Susan married Dr. Gabriel T. Cawthorn, a young physician of Lawrenceville, Ill., who died a few years later leaving one son, Henry Sullivan Cawthorn. Susan Cawthorn then returned to her father's home, where her son was reared later to become the father of Alice Cawthorn, now Mrs. Lawrence N. Rich of Vincennes.

## SOCIAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Elihu Stout and his family were frequent callers at the home of Governor Harrison. He was an ardent Mason, being the first Worshipful Master of Vincennes Lodge No. 1, instituted in 1809. Subsequently, he was elected Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge of Masons, serving for one year in 1827-1828. About the time of his second fire in 1819, he served as one of the managers of the Thespian Society, thus supporting the historic efforts of his employee printer, Sol Smith.

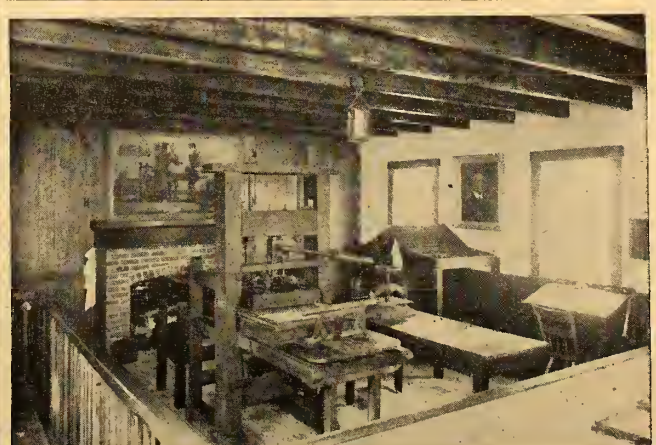
In later years, Stout was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He also served for many years as Justice of the Peace of Vincennes Township, carrying on this activity in the early days of his publishing. In 1845, after quitting the printing business, he was appointed postmaster of Vincennes, serving for one term under President Polk until 1850. Thereafter in 1851, he was appointed Recorder of Deeds for Knox County to fill a vacancy. In the elections of 1855, he succeeded himself, winning on a ticket not generally successful in Knox County. He left the Recorder's office in 1859, enfeebled in health, which he soon regained when freed of the burdens of office. Stout attended the Democratic National Convention at Charleston, S. C., in 1860.

## STOUT'S DEATH

When Elihu Stout returned from attendance at the Democratic National Convention at Charleston, he was a bowed and sorrowful man. According to family records, his death was sudden and probably hastened by the gathering clouds of the Civil War period. He is recorded as believing the impending war could result in nothing other than a disruption of the Union, or a bloody and exhausting conflict to save it. For, not long after his return, he passed away on June 22, 1860. He was buried with Masonic rites in the old Vincennes cemetery.

His grave is marked with a shaft of marble, and the legends on it are readily discernible after the many years that have intervened. It is surrounded by those of contemporaneous stalwarts. His grave-site is secluded in part by a flowering Spiraea bush, the branches of which, as they are wafted in the gentle Southern Indiana breezes, betoken the serenity of a spirit at rest after stamping its cultural im-



INTERIOR VIEW OF RESTORED PRINT SHOP. In the original of this building was published THE WESTERN SUN as successor of the INDIANA GAZETTE founded on July 4, 1804, by printer Elihu Stout. By direct descent the early journalism of Stout continues to this day as the VINCENNES SUN-COMMERCIAL, thus making it the second oldest newspaper in continuous publication west of the Allegheny mountains.



## MY WINDOW

## A Child and a Camera Combined to Preserve a Bit of Lincolniana

By Myrtle Barker

DOWN AT VINCENNES was a very wonderful thing has taken place. The print shop where Elihu Stout published Indiana's first newspaper on July 31, 1864 has been restored. This achievement, sponsored by the Lincoln Free Press Memorial Association, is earnestly appreciated by all history-loving Hoosiers. It is interesting the way it came about—the chain of circumstances which led up to the restoration.

Along about 1920, an aging man in work clothes came into Judge Curtis Shaker's law office at Vincennes. The man, Hiett Cordell, spoke of the dilapidated little building that formerly stood across the street from William Henry Harrison's home there.

"That was Elihu Stout's printing shop," he said, "where the Indiana Gazette was first printed."

IT WAS an old story, one that had been passed along from one generation to another. Abraham Lincoln had come to the print shop. As a young man of 21, he had come through Vincennes on his way to Illinois. And he had stayed at Elihu Stout's. There it was that young Abe had seen his first printing press. Mr. Cordell reached into his pocket and pulled out a small snapshot.

"That's a picture of the shop," he said. "My little granddaughter received a camera for her birthday last year. And straight off she took a picture of the building. That was just before it was torn down."

Judge Shaker was tremendously interested. He suggested that Cordell write the story and send it, along with a print of the snapshot to Col. George B. Lookwood, editor of the National Republican, published at Washington, D.C. Lookwood, a native of Indiana, was fond of

press on the early Indiana scene in no less lasting manner than was done by its owner in life when imprinting books in the old print shop.

## STOUT THE MAN

In a business sense, Stout never attained opulence. He was beset with operating difficulties in the early days of his publishing. The arrival of mail was often late leaving him with no news to print while the delayed receipt of paper supplies frequently forced him to miss publication dates. Then too, the population of the town for two or more decades was chiefly French and Creole and non-English reading.

His second fire in 1819 destroyed a newly erected brick building before it was finally finished and occupied. This building was to be used as a family residence. It is reported that the disaster so impaired his finances that he was only able to build a small building in its stead."

But Elihu Stout had riches. He was kind-hearted, even-tempered, and somewhat easy-going. He liked a friendly game of cards. With the years he mellowed. It is in the nineteenth century when the citizen was seeking confirmation of his understanding of the exact location of the Fort Skoville, this citizen asked Stout to accompany him to the area in order that Stout might indicate location points from his memory. Years later when this citizen wrote of the exact location of the old fort, he stated that both he and "the venerable Elihu Stout" were in agreement on the subject.

## A TRIBUTE TO A GENTLEMAN

Stout was an actor by instinct and became a printer from necessity. Becoming dissatisfied with his situation in Louisville, he walked to Vincennes and ultimately appreciated the advantage Stout to learn the printers' trade. He had aptness and rose to the position of foreman, but his heart

Clipped from THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS of Friday, Aug. 6, 1934.

historical articles. Hiett Cordell did just that.

And here is where circumstances played a winning hand. When Cordell's letter arrived, Col. Lookwood was scheduled to be the principal speaker, at a Lincoln birthday dinner, to be held in Washington on February 12, 1934. He was delighted with this news, and on his address, and devoted quite a portion of his trip to Lincoln's visit to Stout's printing office.

One of the guests at the dinner was Albert T. Reid, a distinguished illustrator and artist. Here again, circumstances were operating. Mr. Reid was fascinated with the thought of Abraham Lincoln looking upon a printing press for the first time. After the dinner and speech, Reid went back to his hotel; got out a sheet of paper and made a sketch. He made a drawing of Lincoln, tall and gaunt, looking at the printing press in Stout's shop.

He took to have breakfast with Col. Lookwood the next morning... and so, he took the picture along. Lookwood was pleased.

HE WAS especially pleased with the title which the artist had given the sketch. It was "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators." The press had emancipated the mind; Lincoln the slave.

Col. Lookwood asked Reid to ink the sketch. When the February issue of the National Republican came out, the Lincoln picture appeared. When the John Wanamaker store in Philadelphia laid plans for a historical exhibit, Reid encouraged the store to buy an old Ramage press he had located. It was like the one Stout had used.

"When you are finished with it," he suggested, "give it to the proposed Vincennes Free Press Memorial."

Wanamaker agreed. It was a chain of many links—the chain of circumstances which instigated the restoration of Stout's print shop. An old man, an artist, a little girl's snapshot, and on and on.

was of the theatre for he "longed to tread the boards again."

Smith worked for Stout on two occasions—the first being at the time of the first fire. Smith wrote revealingly of the life and times of Stout, all in humorous vein. To Sol Smith, is history indebted for his high-minded idealization of Elihu Stout, which in Smith's autobiography published in New York in 1868, was as follows: "As a man, he was kind and indulgent; as a husband, he was forbearing; as a father, affectionate; and as a man he was almost perfect."

## EDITOR STOUT'S DESK

As the visitor enters the memorial one of the first objects to be noted is a small slant-top desk—the one on which Editor Stout wrote the editorials for his little weekly paper. The articles on or about the desk are of special interest.

On the desk will be noted an antique ink well and several goose quills which, as Stout wrote, he used in his writing. The finest pens were made of swan feathers while those from crows were employed for extremely delicate work. Pens in general use, however, were made from feathers plucked from live geese in the spring time, the third and fourth feathers from the left wings being much preferred.

The only place where quill pens yet may be seen in regular use is in the hearing room of the Supreme Court of the United States. Before each public session of the court, the marshal lays out twenty such pens for the attorneys appearing before that august tribunal. This tradition has been maintained since the establishment of the government.

Also to be seen on Stout's little desk are a pair of worn, rawhide horse whip—part of the necessary equipment of a pioneer, editor's office. Historical justification for

## THE RESTORATION SUN

## THREE OF INDIANA'S "FIRSTS" AT VINCENNES



On the left appears the original capitol of the old Indiana Territory. "Grouseland," the actual residence of the first territorial governor, William Henry Harrison, is shown in the background. This building is now owned and maintained by the Francis Vigo Chapter, D. A. R., of Vincennes. The recently completed replica of THE WESTERN SUN printing and publishing office of Elihu Stout is shown on the right. This replica was built to commemorate the 1804 establishment of printing and journalism in the old Indiana Territory. It was a project of the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, an Indiana non-profit corporation. The territorial capitol and the print shop replica are state memorials. All three buildings are open to the public.

## EARLY DAY PRINTERS' INK

Printers made their own ink in early days by pulverizing lampblack on the imposing stones. The resultant powder was mixed with linseed oil to a molasses-like consistency. Varnish was added as a drier.

The museum case in THE WESTERN SUN memorial contains an old lampblack grinding stone believed to have been made and used in Indiana before 1850. This stone is seven and one-half inches wide and six and one-half inches in diameter, while the opposite end measures only two and three-quarters inches. This stone being somewhat conical in shape, a printer would be able to crush the lampblack in a revolving motion, this keeping it heaped to the center of the limited area of the imposing stone.

To ink the printing forms, printers used the type which is said to have been cast in either England or Holland before the advent of the pica system of measurement. His type fonts contained the long "ess," which never was used as the last letter of a word.

## STOUT'S TYPOGRAPHY

When Stout started printing in 1804, he used type which is said to have been cast in either England or Holland before the advent of the pica system of measurement. His type fonts contained the long "ess," which never was used as the last letter of a word.

Some printers assert that Stout frequently used the lower case "ess" and "eff" interchangeably. Considering that this type had a generally well-worn appearance, with the slight difference in the two letters casually to be overlooked, this may have been the most necessary, especially if he were in short supply of either or both letters.

The use of the long "ess" is said to have become obsolete years before Stout's initiation of Indiana printing.

The fact that Stout used type with the obsolete long "ess" is an indication of the general unavailability of printers' supplies on the frontier. Stout used what he could get from sources close to his operation, which in his case were in Frankfort and Lexington, Kentucky. And of course, being of modest means, price was an influencing factor with him.

An inspection of early Stout newspaper files revealed a gradual diminishing use of the long "ess." With the 1817 December editions of

THE WESTERN SUN & GENERAL ADVERTISER, the long "ess" disappeared from the general text. Only two insertions with the long "esses" appeared, and they were in advertisements carried over.

Illustrations in the early newspapers of Stout were few and crude. Among the first to appear were homemade wood cuts of a hat and boot utilized to "dress up" advertisements. Later, small wood and metal cuts of animals, houses, and other easily made objects were used to embellish copy. Not until the 1830's does it appear that a serious attempt was made to affect display in advertisements as we know of it today. Then Stout began to employ different types of faces to produce an attractive effect.

## OLD NEWSPAPERS EXHIBIT

When a memorial visitor walks along the aisle, he may note three wall cases on his left, which house a collection of old newspapers.

The front of each wall case consists of orange-tinted plate glass framed with old, well-seasoned walnut. This tinted glass filters light to eliminate rays harmful to paper preservation. Archivists recommended its use, it being especially manufactured for old records display.

All the newspapers in the three cases, save one were loaned to the Association by O. V. Brown, a Lincoln authority and antiquary of Dale, Indiana. From Mr. Brown's extensive collection, a selection of papers was made. These old papers were not chosen haphazardly. An inspection of their dates will disclose that the earliest is April 12, 1704, appearing on THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER, the first newspaper published in America. The most recently dated paper on file is THE NEW YORK TIMES of April 16, 1963, which dwells at length on Alvin Karpis' execution.

Of the number on exhibit, all are said to be originals except four; namely, THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER, published in America; the ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE of January 4, 1800, Kingston, N. Y.; THE DAILY CITIZEN, July 2, 1863, Vincennes, Miss; and THE CORYDON (Indiana) WEEKLY DEMOCRAT of July 14, 1863, which are reproductions.

The other newspapers bear dates at fairly uniform intervals between the extreme dates given. Otherwise, these were chosen with three objects in view; namely, (1) to assemble within the date range, a collection of noteworthy news events of past years; (2) to obtain



a geographical distribution over the eastern half of the United States, and (3) to present examples of contrasting sizes, formats, typography, etc.

The only authenticated original edition of the **ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE** known to exist is in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. Its news coverage related chiefly to the death of George Washington. Thousands of reprints of this old newspaper were issued and distributed by hawkers on anniversary occasions.

As to the Vicksburg reprint, there are few authenticated originals left. Due to paper shortage during Grant's siege, the paper printed on wall paper, using the reverse side only. Known reprints are on wall paper, thus perpetuating the novelty.

**RAMAGE PRESS**

In the creation of a replica depicting a pioneer newspaper shop, a period printing press is obviously the heart of the entire exhibit. A sponsoring organization in such an undertaking indeed would be off to an inauspicious start were such a period press not in sight for installation.

Stout printed on several Ramage presses over the years he was in the business. Therefore, it was essential that a Ramage press should appear in the recreated printing office scene. It was also fortunate beyond measure that of the several problems encountered by the Association in bringing the memorial to fruition, the procurement of a Ramage press was not one of them.

The number of known Ramage presses is small. All that the Association has learned about are highly prized relics privately owned or on exhibit in museums. So far the association has learned of only seven. Reports of others have come in, but these were not supported with satisfactory data.

Subjoined is a photo of the text of the legend as it has been affixed to the Ramage press in THE WESTERN SUN memorial.

"This old printing press was made by Adam Ramage during the period 1807-1817. It is said to be an outstanding example of sturdy construction in an early nineteenth century

**THE MEETING OF THE TWO GREAT EMANCIPATORS**



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** saw a printing press for the first time on March 6, 1830, during a brief stop at Vincennes when his family was enroute from Spencer County, Indiana, to a new home in Illinois. Regarded as a legend in the absence of documentary proof, yet within the framework of some established facts, Lincoln well may have visited Stout's shop on this occasion.

This painting by Albert Turner Reid, the distinguished American artist and illustrator, hangs over the mantelpiece in the printing memorial. The Ramage press in the memorial was the model used for the painting.

printing press retained down through the years.

"Ramage was a Scotch cabinet-maker who came to Philadelphia in 1800 or earlier. He made his press frames of solid mahogany. He introduced improvements in earlier wooden presses by increasing the diameter of the screw so that more pressure with less effort could be applied through the lever to the platen. He also substituted iron for stone in the bed.

"Ramage presses were highly esteemed by small publishers. They were more portable than iron presses. They had more resilience in operation and were easier to repair. Improved iron presses of the middle 1830s gradually superseded wooden presses.

"Ramage was a director of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

He was born in 1772 and died in Philadelphia in 1850.

"From time of manufacture, nothing of its ownership, use, or location is known of this press until 1876, when it came into the possession of F. S. Stover, Bowmanville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

"Stover was a one time school teacher, and was also a farmer. He never printed a newspaper. He picked up the art of printing sales posters and handbills. In this he was assisted by his daughter Elizabeth, who learned to set type at an early age. After her father's death, she operated the press for twenty years until 1945, when she retired and sold it to Printer Edward S. Smith, Reading, Pennsylvania.

"Elizabeth A. Spotts imprinted her sales bills, 'Lizzie A. Spotts, Printers' thus she stands in line of many printers on the distaff side—Ann Franklin, the wife of James Franklin of Newport; Dinah Nuthall and Anne Catherine Green of Maryland; Elizabeth Timothy of Charleston, Sarah Goddard of Rhode Island, and Mrs. John Peter Zenger of New York, who were never daunted when it became their lot to carry on.

"In 1947 the press was sold by Printer Smith to the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, which made a gift of it to this memorial in 1953.

"Elihu Stout is credited with having used several Ramage presses during his printing career in Vincennes extending from 1804 to 1845."

rather, in the interest of erecting a building with materials of Stout's period. It was more costly to work than new materials. The beams and paneling were of yellow poplar, hard and dry as sun-bleached bones. Some of it was studded with square iron nails. These had to be pulled out by hand, and many broke off, later to prove a hazard in sawing.

Nearly all the visible material in the memorial is approximately 150 years old. The only modern materials showing are the shingles, plaster, paint, and replicas of the hardware. Even the six windows came from the old home, but three of them had to have the framing replaced.

The bricks in the foundation, floor and fireplace, came from the old downtown Vincennes University building, which was erected in 1878 and torn down in 1953.

**LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**

A few lines concerning the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, and of its part in THE WESTERN SUN restoration is not amiss.

The Association was organized on December 10, 1951, under the Indiana not-for-profit corporate act. It had for its object the restoration of the old Stout print shop to become an outright gift to the State of Indiana, for preservation, custodial care, and the maintenance of public visiting hours.

The funds, services, and gifts making the project possible came from six Indiana groups of interest, namely, from the citizens and industry of Vincennes; newspapers; employing printers; suppliers of the printing and related industries; the labor union locals in the printing and graphic art trades, and from the history minded, including some persons of Indiana birth or rearing residing outside the state.

A preliminary financial statement indicated that the memorial, when all the figures shall have been assembled, will cost approximately \$20,000. This figure will include the value of certain important furnishings donated, which were originally budgeted. There were approximately eight hundred and twenty-five separate cash contributions.

**CONCERNING THE START OF INDIANA PRINTING**

Delivers seeking the date of the start of Indiana printing meet with confusion at the outset.

Early Vincennes historians who knew Stout over the years gave the date as being July 4, 1804.

Subsequent chroniclers fell in the way of giving July 31, 1804, as the date.

They did this by deducing the start of Indiana printing from the No. 1 issue of **INDIANA GAZETTE** bore date of August 7, (1804). The No. 1 edition logically must have been issued one week prior thereto, or on July 31.

There are no extant editions of No. 1 to prove it.

It has been suggested that Stout made a mistake in his numbering, or that perhaps there never was a No. 1 issue other than a simple one sheet "flier."

Some confusion in the dates may have originated in the fact that it was on July 4, 1807, Stout's first issue of **THE WESTERN SUN** appeared as the successor of his **INDIANA GAZETTE**, totally destroyed by fire in April, 1866.

While most present-day writers accept the date of July 31, 1804, as being the date Indiana journalism started, yet the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association believes the logic establishing this date made for oversimplification. It is difficult to believe the early historians; namely, Law, Cauthern, and Smith, who were contemporaneous with Stout, knew not whereof they wrote when they were in agreement that the date was July 4, 1804.

(Continued from a more comprehensive article presently available for request from the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Vincennes 1.)

Ground breaking on a site of ground situated in the Harrison Park area and owned by the state, took place on March 18, 1954.

Elsewhere in this paper will be found a facsimile reproduction of the scroll attached to the wall near the front door on the left as one enters the memorial. This scroll gives the names of the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors.

**THIS MEMORIAL**

*is the grateful tribute of the people of Indiana to these sturdy pioneers who had the vision and the fortitude to establish and maintain a free press on the western frontier*

**THE MOVEMENT** to establish this shrine was formally launched by the incorporation of the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association on December 10, 1951. The building was completed and placed in custody of the Indiana Department of Conservation on August 1, 1954.

This noteworthy achievement was made possible by generous donations from hundreds of individuals, groups and organizations from Indiana and elsewhere. The names of all contributors, as well as of those who have given valuable objects for furnishing and equipping the building, are listed in an appropriate book, which is open to inspection.

**LINCOLN-FREE PRESS Memorial Association**

- |                 |                              |                                     |                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| President       | Carl C. Mable, Chairman      | Sam E. Bollen, Member               |                  |
|                 | Thomas C. Wain, Secretary    | Ron H. Gault, Member                |                  |
|                 | Harold B. Burren, Treasurer  | Ralph F. Merck, Executive Secretary |                  |
| John H. Redburn | Stephen C. Noland            | Howard C. Siegel                    |                  |
| E. J. Klen      | Frederic C. Feltman          | Walter C. Wagoner                   |                  |
| Alvin T. Bell   | Walter W. Woodhull           | Monroe E. Wells                     |                  |
| Walter Leachman | Henry F. Schaefer            |                                     |                  |
| John C. McKim   |                              |                                     |                  |
| Architect       | Richard E. Halsey            | Consultant                          | Ernest D. Searns |
| Artisans        | Frank B. Anderson, Carpenter | Clarence H. Crane, Plaster          |                  |
|                 | Oscar D. Scott, R. Johnson   | Martin E. Miller, Painter           |                  |

**THE MEMORIAL BUILDING**

Francis Vico, pioneer fur trader; Revolutionary War patriot; and early Vincennes citizen extraordinary, spent most of his adult life in the Vincennes region.

When he died at the age of 89 in 1836, his home was situated about two and one-half miles southeast of Vincennes on the Monroe City road. It was a large frame farm house of two floors. It was razed about 1850, and the Clark Memorial Commission had the wisdom and foresight to acquire and store its old lumber against the day when such wood would be in demand for a period restoration in the public interest. On the dissolution of the Clark Commission, the material passed to the Indiana Department of Conservation. In 1951, the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association was given such part of it as was needed to construct the old print shop replica.

This old material was not utilized to save on building costs, but



**THE OLD PRINT SHOP.** This enlargement of a small snapshot is from the only known picture of one of Elihu Stout's publishing and printing shops. Stout occupied this building for many years before and after the fire of February 28, 1819, when the nearby premises he occupied were destroyed.

This 18 x 24 foot building stood on the east side of St. Louis (now First) street between Buntin and Perry streets. It was torn down circa 1920. Here Abraham Lincoln is supposed to have seen a printing press for the first time on March 6, 1830.

On the basis of the measurements of this old building, this memorial to printing was constructed. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the restoration were held on March 18, 1954. On August 1, 1954, the restoration was turned over to the Indiana Department of Conservation, Division of State Parks, for preservation, custodial care, and the maintenance of public visiting hours.



# LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dedicated to the restoration of  
The First Newspaper Plant in Indiana Territory.

This memorial was conceived by Indianans. It should be brought into being by the financial support of Indianans. Over and above any satisfaction to be gained in restoring a physical object of historical value there exists another value of transcendent quality. The inspirational value of this memorial will exert and stimulate a broader awareness of the need to maintain a press unfettered by restraints—governmental or otherwise! No donation from any Indianan will be too small since a breadth of state-wide interest is desirable. Each contributor will be issued an appropriate certificate and have his name engrossed upon the records of the Association where it will remain in perpetuity for reference by descendants and the historically minded.

It is estimated that \$25,000 will accomplish all purposes in the plan of restoration and for furnishings.

March 5th, 1952 is the tentative date for the dedication ceremonies.

Remittances by cash, check or money order may be sent directly to the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Inc., American Bank Building, Vincennes, Indiana. If more convenient donors may send their remittances in one or more installments at specific dates. A donation form and a self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

It is planned to have the exercises of dedication on March 6, 1952. Hence, there is urgency to send donations now!

## THIS MEMORIAL WILL BE OF NATION-WIDE INTEREST AND APPEAL

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF LINCOLN-FREE PRESS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

*President, CURTIS G. SHAKE, Vincennes, Indiana*

*Lawyer; former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana;*

*former Executive Presiding Judge, U. S. Military Tribunals, Nurnberg, Germany.*

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Preservation and Restoration of Historic Vincennes.*

*ROSS H. GARRIGUS, Vincennes, Indiana*

*Editor, Vincennes, Indiana SUN-COMMERCIAL*

*MRS. FLORENCE G. WATTS, Vincennes, Indiana.*

*Past Regent, Francis Vigo Chapter,  
Daughters of the American Revolution.*

© 1951, Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, Inc.

# HISTORIC VINCENNES

NOW ADDS TO ITS COMMUNITY OF VENERATED MEMORIALS



## THE RESTORED PLANT OF ELIHU STOUT WHERE YOUNG LINCOLN SAW HIS FIRST PRINTING PRESS

MARCH, 1830

To be restored on the square where stands the First Capitol of Indiana and across the street from the William Henry Harrison mansion. Here this replica of the Stout printery as Lincoln saw it in March 1830, the first in all that part of the United States, will have perpetual care by the Department of Conservation of the State of Indiana.



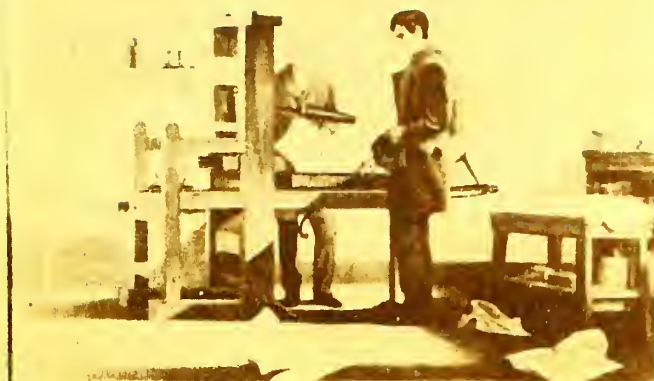
The building restoration will be brought about by the use of materials of that period utilizing plans drawn by Albert T. Reid, noted American artist and newspaper man. Mr. Reid visited the site and plotted the foundation of the original Stout printery and then drew the plans of restoration. Materials necessary are presently available.



# THE MEETING OF THE TWO GREAT EMANCIPATORS

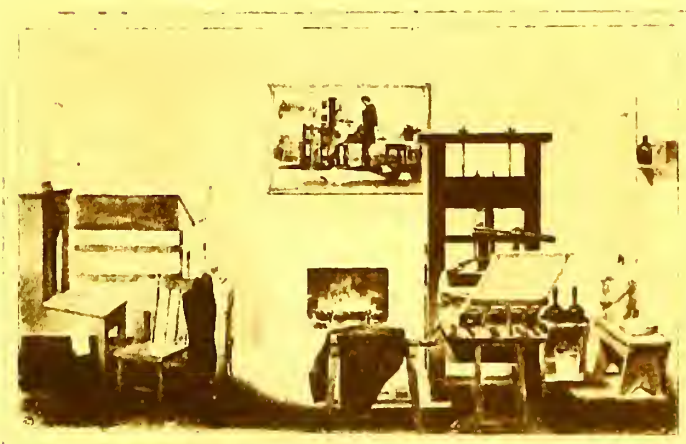
Abraham Lincoln, only three weeks past his twenty-first birthday, walked into the printing office of Elihu Stout in Vincennes early in March 1830. Mr. Stout looked at the tall young man as he stood gazing at the Romage press.

Stepping near his young visitor, Mr. Stout took a sheet of paper and put it against the frame, which he turned down on the type bed. Giving the crank a couple of turns the bed was brought under the tympan. He reached for the lever and gave it a hard pull. Releasing it, he turned the crank to bring the opposite page of type under the tympan. Again he pulled the lever. When he rolled the bed back to its starting place, Mr. Stout lifted the printed sheet and showed it to his awed visitor. Lincoln looked on in wonderment; he had witnessed a miracle. Before his eyes the word had been recorded for all the world to see. He well could have realized this press should forever be free, for this is the first of our Freedoms.



LINCOLN SEES HIS FIRST PRINTING PRESS

Painting by Albert T. Reid based on his original drawing made for a magazine cover in 1921. Reid's drawing dramatized this event nation-wide and inaugurated the plan to restore the old Stout printing plant. On this press was printed the WESTERN SUN AND GENERAL ADVERTISER and also the statutes of the Indiana Territory, both of which Lincoln read. Interested in how they had been printed, he walked over to Stout's office from the blacksmith shop where his father was having his wagon tires shrunk on the occasion of the migration of the Lincoln family from Indiana to Illinois.



INTERIOR OF THE STOUT PRINTING OFFICE

Here, with the Romage press, type cases, imposing stone, bench, ink stand, desk and other equipment, Mr. Reid's painting will hang over the mantle. The press is a duplicate of the one Stout used. The Stout press was sold and moved several times. Badly worn and deteriorated it was finally lost to posterity. All equipment to be used in the restoration will be authentic. No expense of time in research has been spared to make this an accurate reproduction of the plant young Lincoln saw in March 1830.

To the left is a reproduction of the front page of the issue that Lincoln probably helped print. The contents of the page reproduced are not so important as the memorialized event they call to mind.

